

## Florida

The Medicare Modernization Act of 2003 (MMA) provides an opportunity for Medicare beneficiaries in the State of Florida to enroll in a Medicare-approved prescription drug discount card to help lower their drug costs. Beginning this June, the Medicare Prescription Drug Discount Card Program will enable Medicare beneficiaries to save discounts of 10 to 15 percent on average for their prescription drugs, and as much as 25 percent or more on individual prescriptions. In addition, the MMA enacted the Transitional Assistance Program, which provides a \$600 credit per year in 2004 and 2005 for the purchase of prescription drugs to beneficiaries with incomes that are 135 percent (or below) the federal poverty level, provided that individuals do not have Medicaid or other drug coverage.

Here's how this program is helping Florida:

- Currently, there are over 40 million Medicare beneficiaries nationally, including 2,931,000 beneficiaries in Florida. Of those in Florida, 797,000 beneficiaries do not have any prescription drug coverage. This program primarily benefits these individuals by assisting them in paying for the drugs they need.
- Over the duration of the program, CMS estimates a potential for \$3.8 to \$5.1 billion in total beneficiary savings from discounted drug prices nationally.
- CMS expects that a total of 7 million Medicare beneficiaries, including 490,000 beneficiaries in Florida, are currently eligible to participate in the Transitional Assistance Program. Over the duration of the program, this translates into a potential savings of \$8.6 billion nationally and \$590 million for beneficiaries in Florida.
- Nationally, CMS expects 65 percent of eligible (low-income) beneficiaries to participate in the Transitional Assistance Program. This means that a total of close to 5 million beneficiaries are estimated to participate, including 320,000 in Florida. Based on this assumption, these beneficiaries are expected to save a total of \$5 billion nationally and \$380 million in Florida over the duration of the program.

Florida has a combined total of 53 individual drug cards (excluding special endorsements). This includes 39 national drug cards, 2 regional card(s), and 12 Medicare Advantage exclusive card(s). See attachment for more information.

In addition, some States have other pharmacy programs that offer a prescription drug benefit. Florida has a Medicaid Pharmacy Plus waiver, SILVERx SAVER, which allows it to cover approximately 52,000 Medicare beneficiaries up to 120 percent of the poverty level. Like many assistance programs, not everyone who is eligible for this program signs up. Any of these remaining individuals could enroll in the Transitional Assistance program for the \$600 credit under the drug card or the Pharmacy Plus program.